

Comment Period Bulletin – January 12, 2022

Dear Forest Neighbors,

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest welcomes your comments on our proposed Forest-wide Prescribed Fire Restoration Project Environmental Assessment.

The proposed project would authorize multiple prescribed burns across the Forest per year, each ranging from 500-10,000 acres in size. The aim of this project is to increase the amount of annual prescribed burning each year over the next 15 to 20 years to increase resilience of existing vegetation, restore or maintain proper ecological function to native vegetation communities and wildlife habitats, improve firefighter and public safety, and promote fire adapted communities within the wildland-urban interface. The proposed action would authorize prescribed burning where it is needed to restore fire-dependent ecosystems on national forest system lands in the Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests. Prescribed burning would be conducted within established guidelines, law, regulation, and Policy. The proposal excludes lands within Congressionally Designated Wilderness and Research Natural Areas.

We originally shared our proposed action for public input in November 2020. Since that time, the interdisciplinary team and I have reviewed the public comments received, considered the potential environmental effects of the proposed action, and prepared environmental assessment, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The environmental assessment and other project information is available on the project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57860>.

HOW TO COMMENT

Your comments on this proposal are welcome and encouraged! Please submit your substantive comments on this proposed action, along with supporting reasons that I should consider before issuing a decision. Of particular interest to me are your comments regarding the effects of the project and the analysis presented in the environmental assessment. Also please let us know if you have concerns or issues with conducting prescribed fire operations in specific areas and your reasons why.

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Reno Gazette*.

We request that you submit your comments online at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=57860>. Attachments to comments must be submitted in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or Adobe Portable Document format (pdf). Emails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above or in other formats than those listed or containing viruses, will be rejected. Comments received in response to this initial request, including names, addresses, and any other information provided with the comments, will be considered a part of the public record and will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and released if requested.

If you are not able to access the online form, comments may also be submitted by regular mail to Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks Nevada, 89431 or by fax at 775-355-5399. If you must speak to someone or wish to hand deliver a comment regarding this project please contact the person identified below.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ELIGIBILITY

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely and specific written

comments §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6). For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8).

CONTACT

For additional information, please contact Christine Handler, Environmental Coordinator, at christine.handler@usda.gov or 559-920-2188.

Thank you for your interest and participation in developing this project.